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from outside the State and also for moving our allotment to Kerala.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : May I know, Sir, whether there are to be check-posts to check movements from taluk to taluk or from district to district?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Generally the district borders are watched. But sometimes during the procurement the Collectors find it necessary to have check-posts even to check movements from taluk to taluk.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : May I know this year's position of the Kuruvai crop compared to that of last year?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : In the Thanjavur delta it is slightly better than last year.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கடாசலம் : உணவுப்பொருள்கள், குறிப்பாக ராகி போன்றவைகள், இந்த மாநிலத்திலிருந்து வேறு மாநிலங்களுக்கு ரயில் மூலமாக புக்செய்து அனுப்பப்படுவது அமைச்சருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : இப்போதிருக்கிற நிலையில் அப்படிப் புக் செய்து அனுப்ப முடியாது.

Prices of foodgrains

*155 Q.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sudden spurt in the price of foodgrains like toor dhall, Bengalgram, blackgram and also the non-availability of the same;

(b) the reasons for the same and the percentage of the increase; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the availability of the above foodgrains at reasonable prices?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) to (c) The information is given in the paper* placed on the table of the House.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, in the information furnished in the statement it is stated that scarcity was caused because the movement was restricted and there was shortfall in production. Generally we used to get our requirements of toor dhall and other grains from the other States. Why have not the Government taken immediate steps to procure the stuff and maintain regular supplies? The Government themselves have admitted that the prices have gone up by hundred per cent. Today the prices have gone up by nearly 200 per cent. What is the reason for the increase in price in spite of the fact that the Government have taken over the responsibility for supplying these?

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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have given the reasons for the difficulties faced by us. We have moved into the buying and we can buy only depending on the allotments made by the Government of India. Our Chief Minister also directly wrote to a number of Chief Ministers of the other States and they have been good enough to give us special preference and they have allotted us large stocks and they are being moved. And in spite of this, we are still faced with some difficulties.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, in the answer given to clause (*b*), the Hon. Minister has stated that the prices have come down to normal. Will the Hon. Minister tell us the prices that were prevailing in the State prior to the scarcity? What does he mean by normal prices? 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : If the hon. Member has followed the trend of trade, he would have seen that there was abnormal shooting up of prices some time before when there was no sufficient quantity of foodgrains moving into the City. After Government took steps to bring in foodgrains from the various producing centres, prices have come down.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The point is this. Even though now there is not much of a scarcity, the prices have not come down, whereas the Hon. Minister has stated that prices have come down to normal. That is why I want to know the prices prevailing before there was scarcity. I want to know what the Hon. Minister means by normal prices.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have not with me the list of prices prevailing in 1964 or 1965 as such. But the scarcity, wherever it was, has been overcome, and I do think that the prices have come down.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The prices have come down by a small percentage, whereas they rose during the scarcity period to abnormal heights. Will the Government take steps to see that the foodgrains are supplied at a fair price to the consumers?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : That is our effort. We are taking steps.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, is it not a fact that other State Governments have purchased at a lower rate and sold it at exorbitant prices to this Government? In my last speech, I have given facts to show that nearly by fifty to sixty per cent the prices have been increased by those Governments in selling foodgrains to our State Government. What is the reason for this? What steps have the State Government taken to reduce the prices? Even to-day, the price is nearly 300 per cent. I say this for the information of the Government. I am prepared to prove this.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The hon. Member may try to prove. But as far as I am concerned, the State Government did move in the matter and the other State Governments did help us. They did buy and sold to us. But I cannot say that they charged

exorbitant rates with any trade motive as such. I feel the efforts taken by us have brought good results, and the prices are fairly under control, as far as our State is concerned.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are the Government aware that these controls are responsible for blackmarket and increase in prices and that people are unable to get their regular requirements daily and at reasonable prices?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : If the hon. Member will just remember what happened before we stepped in, he will agree that our stepping in has brought down the prices to a great extent to the consumer.

Procurement of Kuruvai rice

* 156 Q.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of Kuruvai rice procured during the year 1964;

(*b*) the total expenditure on the above procurement;

(*c*) the price at which the rice procured by the Government is being sold in wholesale and retail;

(*d*) the price at which it is being sold at Madras; and

(*e*) whether the sale price differs from place to place?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) One lakh ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and sixty (1,99,760) tonnes.

(b) Rupees one crore nine lakhs one thousand five hundred and seventy-three and fifty-eight Paise only (Rs. 1,09,01,573.58 Paise).

(*c*) The price varies from place to place as it takes into account transport charges also.

(*d*) The wholesale issue price of one quintal of kuruvai rice is Rs. 70.59 plus sales tax and the retail issue price is 73 Paise plus sales tax per kilogram; and

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : This kuruvai rice was practically exported outside this State before controls were imposed. Usually we used to get enough samba paddy and rice for our State. But the price of this kuruvai rice was exorbitant on account of the pool price and Government interference. What is the procurement price and what is the pool price for this kuruvai rice?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The hon. Member is requested to recall the situation that prevailed in 1964. If the Government allowed free trade, then the hon. Member himself would have known what would have happened in the State. It is the Government stepping in and distributing foodgrains to the people that saved the situation. I am sure that the Government did not create a situation wherein the prices had to shoot up and cause difficulty.